

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 XMB-04

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R 290957Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2900

UNCLAS TOKYO 12123

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF JAPANESE SPECIAL STEELMAKERS FORMED TO
DEAL WITH U.S. ESCAPE CLAUSE INVESTIGATION

REF: STATE 190116

1. NISSHIN STEEL COMPANY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ICHIRO HATTORI
CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT HE HAS BEEN NAMED CHAIRMAN OF
NEWLY FORMED "SPECIAL STEEL LIAISON COUNCIL WITH THE U.S."
BOTH HATTORI AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SPECIAL STEEL DEPT.
OF JAPAN IRON AND STEEL FEDERATION (JISF) DENIED THAT COUNCIL
IS FORMING AN EXPORT CARTEL OR PREPARING TO INSTITUTE VOLUNTARY
EXPORT RESTRAINTS VIS A VIS THE U.S. ACCORDING JISF, CURRENT
MEMBERSHIP OF SIX MANUFACTURERS (NISSHIN, DAIDO, NIPPON,
KAWASAKI, KYODO SHAFT, AND HITACHI METALS) PLUS TWO TRADING
FIRMS (MITSUI AND NISSHO-IWAI) WILL SOON BE EXPANDED TO
INCLUDE MAJOR MFRS. AND EXPORTERS OF ALL 51 ITEMS CURRENTLY
UNDER CONSIDERATION BY ITC FOR ESCAPE CLAUSE ACTION.

2. HATTORI SAID ONLY ACTION COUNCIL HAS TAKEN IS TO
NAME NELSON A. STITT, U.S. LEGAL ADVISOR TO JAPAN
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IRON AND STEEL EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION, AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE FORTHCOMING ITC HEARING. HE ADDED
THAT COUNCIL'S PRIMARY FUNCTION AT PRESENT IS TO
GATHER INFORMATION AND COORDINATE INDUSTRY'S REPRESENTATIVE

SENATIONS TO THE ITC.

3. ACCORDING HATTORI THE INDUSTRY BELIEVES TOTAL CY 1975 SPECIAL STEEL EXPORTS TO U.S. WILL NOT GREATLY EXCEED CY 1974 LEVEL. HE ATTRIBUTED SPECTACULAR PERCENTAGE INCREASES FOR FIRST HALF CY 1975 OVER FIRST HALF CY 1974 TO EXCEPTIONALLY LOW EXPORTS EARLY IN 1974 (STEMMING FROM THE OIL CRISIS AND PRICE FREEZE) FOLLOWED BY HEAVY SPECULATIVE BUYING DURING LATTER HALF 1974 IN ANTICIPATION OF U.S. COAL STRIKE. HATTORI SAID LOW CONTRACT RATE FOR FIST HALF 1975 WILL SOON SHOW UP IN CUSTOMS STATISTICS.

4. LATEST AVAILABLE STAINLESS STEEL EXPORT STATISTICS FROM JISF AND CUSTOMS BUREAU FOLLOW:

JAPANESE EXPORTS TO U.S. OF STAINLESS STEEL MILL PRODUCTS

(UNIT: METRIC TONS)

COMPARISON

	1974	1975	1975/1974
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(PERCENT)

JANUARY	1,791	4,241	PLUS 136.8
FEBRUARY	1,803	6,499	PLUS 260.5
MARCH	2,777	7,174	PLUS 158.3
APRIL	2,754	3,802	PLUS 38.1
MAY	2,823	4,483	PLUS 58.8
JUNE	4,312	3,953	- 8.3

INCLUDES WIRE ROD, BARS, RODS, PLATES, SHEETS, HOOPS, STRIPS, TUBES, AND PIPES.

JAPANESE EXPORTS TO US. OF STAINLESS WIRE

(UNIT: METRIC TONS)

COMPARISON

	1974	1975	1975/1974
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JAN.-MAR.	2,110	4,179	PLUS 41.6 PERCENT
APR.-JUNE	2,472	2,449	-42.8 PERCENT

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